

Alden State Bank

P.O. Box 185
Alden, Kansas 67512
620-534-2135

2005 SEP 12 AM 10:33

P.O. Box 288
Sterling, Kansas 67579
620-278-2244

September 2, 2005

Re: Wal-Mart ILC application

FDIC San Francisco Regional Office
Director Johns F. Carter
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square
Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you today on behalf of our bank to express our opposition to the Wal-Mart ILC application. Our bank is a 101 year old bank in towns with populations of 2600 and 200 in central Kansas. We are located 25 miles from the nearest Wal-Mart, but it might as well be 25 yards. We have first hand knowledge and experience with this organization, which has been in our area for 15 years now. We have watched powerlessly as one by one of our retail, "Mom & Pop" stores have fallen by the wayside. What was once a thriving downtown with almost full occupancy 10 years ago is now less than 50% occupied with no retail and only 1 grocery store. Our town of 2600 has actually grown over the past 10 years, so our retail loss cannot be blamed on a shrinking population.

I personally view the Wal-Mart organization as a devious, destructive, cult-like organization who through clever and tricky advertising dupes consumers into believing that they actually care for them and are looking out for them with so called cut-rate prices. Their hidden agenda was and remains to provide cut-rate prices until they've driven-out the competition. Their philosophy would not be any different in the banking industry if they were allowed even the slightest "foot in the door."

Despite my personal views, my main argument in opposition to the Wal-Mart ILC application is that mixing banking and commerce is bad public policy. If Wal-Mart were allowed into banking it would jeopardize the impartial allocation of credit and create conflicts of interest. It would provide Wal-Mart another tool in their conquest of America, with the American Taxpayer holding the ultimate liability (i.e. S&L Bailout of the 1980's). If Wal-Mart is allowed into the banking industry it will create a dangerous and unprecedented concentration of economic power throughout this Country. Their presence, if approved, will also bring about the end of the Community Bank in America.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



J. Todd Rowland
EVP

Your Community Bank, Serving you Since 1904
MEMBER FDIC